

May 21, 2009

Interim Good News

You may have noticed a change, for now we have added "Interim" to the name of our "Good News" newsletter. The *Good News* is critical to our life as a congregation and announcing upcoming events in a timely matter. We plan to distribute the *Good News* by email on Thursday each week.

For now, it will not be as creative and artistic as it has been, but we will strive for accuracy and to send it out on schedule. Please send your church announcements about upcoming events to Linda by Wednesday for her to paste directly into the *Good News*. It would be helpful to include your name, email, and phone number so that others can contact you for more information.

We have added "Interim" to the title for now, because we are waiting for a volunteer to take over editing and compiling the *Good News*. Hint: We are eager to change the name back! Please let me know if you are willing to take on this important task.

Tracy Geiger:

Due to a private and personal family crisis, Tracy Geiger, our C.E. Program Coordinator has accepted other employment and has resigned from our church staff. She will be away for a family wedding next week, and after helping with Vacation Bible School, she will be working full time at her other job. The good news is that she and her family are still vital members of our church family, and that we can continue to love and support them through the challenges ahead.

Since we are not planning to replace her staff-ministry at this time, our ministry teams, especially Christian Education, and

Congregational Life and Outreach will be looking for much more volunteer help, your gifts, your abilities and your interest. You can begin by asking the moderator of the ministry team of your interest what you can do to help.

As we work through the changes ahead, please be patient with our inevitable mistakes, and be willing to help and adjust. We have grown accustomed to Tracy's eagerness to pitch in, pick up loose ends, and her remarkable ability to get things done. We will greatly miss her contributions on our church staff, and must remember that she is no longer an employee of the church. It is important that we respect this change in Tracy's role at our church. Specifically that means that when she comes to worship it is as a church member. Therefore, we must allow her to worship and not press her to solve problems. As much as we will miss Tracy's work on the church staff, we do welcome her continued ministry as a volunteer.

As we go through this transition together, with confidence we claim God's promise of Romans 8:28. "We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose."

Choir Director:

During a particularly stressful and overwhelming time, Kelly Temple our choir director asked to resign at the end of this season. Kelly has a very demanding job that includes directing choir and fundraising at Oñate High School. As we discussed her situation, we recognized that fulfilling her school job and directing our church choir also requires considerable sacrifice on the part of her family.

Somehow, during the years that Kelly directed our choir, her two little boys have grown into young men who will be leaving home for college in the near future. The time that she and Greg have with their sons at home is finite, irreplaceable and precious. In addition,

Kelly's father is fighting a valiant battle against cancer. It is important that she be free to spend time with her father and be able to visit without the demands directing our church choir. I thank Kelly for her help and service, and note how the choir grew under her leadership.

The good news is that Kelly and her family are still a part of our church family, that doesn't change. We pray for Kelly, her dad, and her family through these important seasons of change and transition.

Position Open: Choir Director at First Presbyterian Church, Las Cruces, NM, to rehearse and direct Chancel Choir of about 40 voices and work regularly with the pastor to coordinate music for all worship services. Position to be filled by August 1, 2009. For questions call Wayne Maley (Moderator of the Music & Worship Ministry team) at 522-1526.

Happy Birthday:

Betsy O'Neill, daughter of Jean O'Neill would like to say Happy 80th Birthday to her mother Jean. Born May 20, 1929, Jean is a strong and faithful "prayer warrior", mighty in God's grace and the gift of prayer. Her family is so thankful for her walk of faith on this earth, she has been a beacon of light as a church organist, wife, mother, grandmother and now a great grandmother.

InBetweeners:

Pot-luck supper this Friday, May 22, at 6:30 PM in Watkins Hall. Please bring a dish to share. Come and enjoy a photo trip to Egypt with commentary by Alex Burr and Kate Puckett. RSVP by calling Alex or Marjorie Burr, 522-2528 or burrmb@aol.com.

All Church Camping:

Congregational Life is sponsoring a campout and would like you to join them about noon on Saturday, May 30th at Aguirre Springs Park for some fun and fellowship. Hotdogs and the fixings for s'mores

for the evening meal will be provided. You bring the family and a dish to share. There is a \$3 use fee at the park.

“Aprendamos”:

On June 6th the Children’s Garden and the community action group “Aprendamos” will be using our church grounds to hold a *community open house* from 9-2 PM. There will be activities for the children, as well as many resources for parents. It will be advertised in print and on the radio.

“Rock-Solid Followers”

Summer Sunday School for all ages, through 5th grade. Begins on Sunday, May 24th in Branigan Hall, room 207 at 9:00 AM for crafts, singing, games, and Bible stories.

Vacation Bible School:

Bible Stories, Games, Crafts, Songs, and Snacks

Gospel Light’s KINGDOM of the SON, A Prayer Safari. June 8-12 from 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM. Stop by the office to pick up a registration form.

Movie Night, FUN for the whole family:

Sunday, June 14, come and see the movie “Bolt” (PG). Showing starts at 5:30 PM in Watkins/Reeves Hall.

“Bolt” an American White Shepherd, has lived his whole life on the set of his action TV show, where he believes he has superpowers. When separated from the studio by accident, he meets a female alley cat named Mittens and a hamster named Rhino. When he believes that his human, Penny, has been kidnapped, he and his friends set out on a cross-country journey to “rescue” her.

Don’t forget to bring whatever you need to make yourself comfortable like a lawn chair, or blanket, a picnic dinner, some drinks or just snacks. Popcorn will be provided. This is a sponsored event by the Congregational Life Ministry team.

Mission Trip:

Please pray for our High School youth and their sponsors. They are on the road to Del Mar California for their Mission Trip. They will be attending a Christian concert at Spirit West Coast music festival. The youth will be helping with service work in cleaning up the area where the concert was held plus they will be working at a soup kitchen in the San Diego area. The youth will be home late on Monday night.

Mid School Youth:

Mission trip, on June 28, going to the Navajo Reservation in Arizona. The youth will have an opportunity to serve in many ways. They will participate in various work projects, educational events and activities. This is a step of faith for both the parents and the youth. If you have signed up for this mission trip but have not yet filled out the paper work please stop by the church office and pick up a packet outside of Mark's office door.

Summer Play Days:

May 28, June 4, 18, & 25.

The youth will meet at the church on May 28th at 9:00 AM. Come prepared to get wet on this day. Come and enjoy a day of fun in the sun. Snacks will be provided. Contact Mark, 526-5559 for more information.

Summer Fun Day:

On June 26, for all Elementary children.
More information to come.

Dates to remember:

May 25 – Memorial Day, office closed
May 26 – deadline for all articles going into the June Lantern
May 31 – Pentecost